

ADVANCES IN SNOWPLOWING IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY CREATES SAFER STREETS



MOTORISTS’ SAFETY AND MOBILITY ARE THE primary concerns of Street Maintenance crews as they gear up to battle the sleet, snow and ice that make driving hazardous. This winter, with the help of the latest technology, crews may be able to stay one step ahead of Mother Nature.

Using a new salt brine production system, the City’s snow removal process begins before the snow falls. Prior to a predicted snowstorm, the brine, a salt and water solution, is sprayed on the roads to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement.

“The brine works with the wheel movement of traffic to break up and melt the snow and ice as it hits the pavement,” said Bloomington Maintenance Superintendent Larry Tschida. “This method reduces initial plowing time and the need for our crews to re-plow, making the roads safer for the traveling public.”

A new computer system in the truck’s cab allows crews to more efficiently regulate how much brine is applied.

“Only the amount that is needed is used, which is not only less expensive, but better for the environment,” said snowplow operator Chris Franke. “The new system is also safer, because with a push of a button you can regulate where the brine solution is sprayed; you don’t have to move into another lane to apply it.”



The Minnesota Department of Transportation, as well as many other cities in the state and around the country, uses the brine solution method. A City of Bloomington truck was outfitted with the new equipment to begin a transition toward the program. The brine will be applied to American Boulevard and along portions of Lyndale Avenue this winter. The City will monitor its effectiveness before expanding the treatments to other major arterials. For more information, call 952-563-8760.

SPRUCE UP YOUR DWELLING HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS AVAILABLE



To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equity in your home to cover the amount of the loan. *Income guidelines apply. See table.*

Eligible repairs

- Replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems.
- Gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia.
- Exterior painting.
- Foundation, sidewalk or steps.

Ineligible repairs

- Decorating.
- Additions.
- Finishing of basements.
- Remodeling.
- Garage constructions.

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is now accepting applications for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$30,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at a simple 5 percent per year rule for the first 10 years based on the original loan amount.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need.

INCOME GUIDELINES	
Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$40,600
2	\$46,400
3	\$52,200
4	\$58,000
5	\$62,650
6	\$67,300
7	\$71,900
8 or more	\$76,500
* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.	
** Subject to change.	

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 10. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937.

COMMUNITY LEADER CORAL HOULE SELECTED AS LEGACY AWARD WINNER

FORMER BLOOMINGTON MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBER, American Cancer Society advocate and volunteer – the list of Coral Houle’s community activities is long. Houle was presented with the Bloomington Community Foundation’s Eighth Annual Legacy Award in November for her leadership and many contributions to the community.

Bloomington Community Foundation Chair Gil Williams said volunteers such as Houle have made our city, state and nation a much better place to live.

“Coral has contributed countless hours, giving to others in so many ways,” Williams said. “Some may think of Coral only because of her political involvement and service, but that has been just a small part of what she has done for the betterment of the community and for others.”

The Legacy Award is presented annually to an outstanding Bloomington citizen who demonstrates community leadership, exhibits high ethical standards, illustrates ongoing support for community projects and addresses community challenges. The Bloomington Community Foundation is dedicated to building a healthy, strong community. If you would like to become a donor, call 952-888-8077.



Volunteers, such as Houle, have made our city, state and nation a better place to live.

DEDICATED TO CRIME PREVENTION DETECTIVE HONORED WITH LIFETIME LEGACY AWARD



Detective James Caauwe, right, with Bloomington Police Sergeant Todd Lewis.

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DETECTIVE JAMES Caauwe was honored with the 2005 Minnesota Crime Prevention Association’s Rosie Griep Lifetime Legacy Award, the highest honor given to a crime prevention professional in the State of Minnesota.

Caauwe has devoted more than seven years to crime prevention efforts that have helped make Bloomington a safe community. Because of Caauwe’s work, Bloomington is a leader in crime prevention initiatives that include the successful Crime-Free Multi-Housing, Operation ID and Bike Safety programs and a lighting ordinance that promotes crime prevention through environmental design.

This is the second consecutive year that Bloomington was honored with the Rosie Griep Lifetime Legacy Award. Crime Prevention Specialist Niki Pierson was presented with the award in 2004.

EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING CITY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARDS

VIDEOS PRODUCED BY THE CITY’S Communications Division received top honors at the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Government Programming Awards in Washington, DC. Bloomington was awarded first and second place in the Public Affairs category.

“A New Use for Old Town Hall” took first-place honors. “Great story! Great job telling and showing it,” the judges said.

Second place was awarded to “Bloomington Today: Year in Review 2004.” Judges called the program “a very informative vehicle for the citizenry. It helps to maintain a positive avenue for news about city projects.”

NATOA’s Government Programming Awards recognize excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. This year, NATOA received more than 1,000 entries from across the country. For more information, call Communications Administrator Diann Kirby at 952-563-8818.